

SKILLED TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM: UPSKILLING EMPLOYEES FOR GROWTH

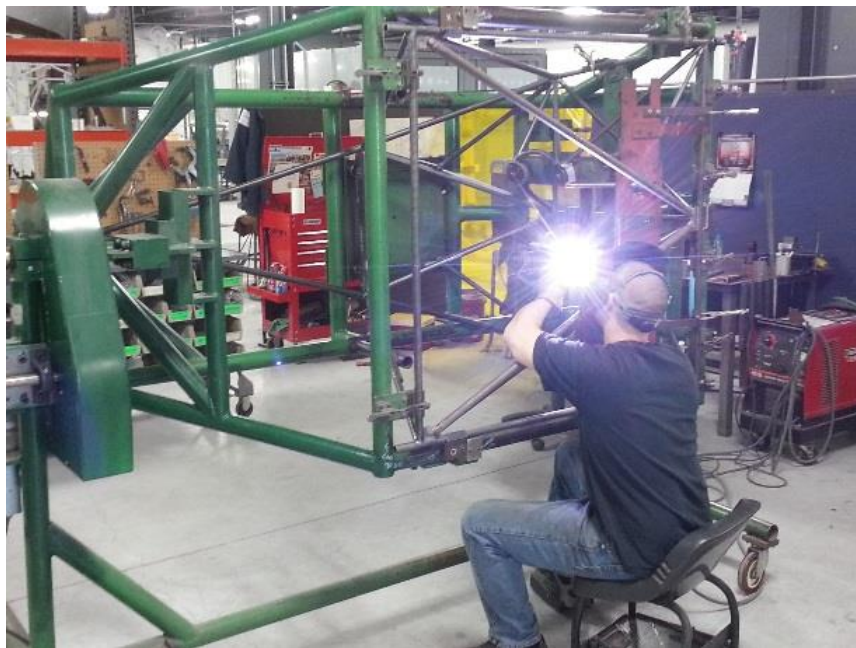
Enstrom Helicopter Corporation Trained 48 Current Employees

Enstrom Helicopter Corporation of Menominee manufactures helicopters for governmental, police, commercial, and private customers around the world. Over 90% of Enstrom's helicopters are manufactured in their Menominee facility, which requires a highly skilled workforce.

In 2014, Enstrom completed its 77,000 square foot expansion and hired 91 employees to increase their workforce to support increased market demand for helicopters. As a result of the retirement of experienced employees, and the hiring of less experienced new employees, Enstrom embarked on an aggressive training program for their staff to address the accelerated production schedule.

Enstrom received a \$16,460 STTF grant in 2015 to training existing staff in welding inspection, knowledge needed for inspecting welds on critical components of their helicopter. This training had a direct impact on their processes and efficiencies, adding to the bottom line of the company. Enstrom's welding leadman, Shane Betzinger, said, "The welding tips and techniques helped us cut down on irregularities in welds and helped us with knowing what to look for."

"The UP is not a hot bed of aviation. It is extremely important for Enstrom to be able to attract and train local employees that enjoy the area and want to be here. That is why I am so grateful to Michigan Works! and the STTF grant program which has supported us through the beginning of this process," said Tracy Biegler, President & CEO of Enstrom. "In speaking with other industry leaders in the area, it is not only aviation, but all industry that can benefit from this type of program. Furthermore, the investment made in the local population will keep quality employees in the UP that will continue to attract other businesses and employers to this area of the country."



Pictured above is welder Garrett Wolsker who is welding a pylon for a piston-powered helicopter.

June 2015